

Account: U.S. Department of Transportation Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Transit

Address of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Transit, One Penn Plaza, East Newark, NJ 07105

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,021,250 in funding for the Lakewood Township shuttle service project. This shuttle service would efficiently move people in this growing and congested area of Central New Jersey. The funding would be used to purchase additional shuttle buses, provide sheltered bus stops, establish loading and drop-off zones, provide parking for mass transit vehicles, and parking for private vehicles.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: U.S. Department of Transportation FTA New Starts

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Transit

Address of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Transit, One Penn Plaza, East Newark, NJ 07105

Description of Request: I have secured \$534,375 in funding for the MOM Line for the Design Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) stage. The MOM line would provide Central New Jersey residents with access to Northern New Jersey and New York City.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: U.S. Department of Transportation Bus and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Arc of Mercer County

Address of Requesting Entity: The Arc of Mercer County, 180 Ewingville Road, Ewing, NJ 08638

Description of Request: I have secured \$95,000 in funding for the Arc of Mercer County to provide cost effective transportation services for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens in the Mercer County area. This service is needed to supplement existing county and state services and provide efficiency through coordinated efforts. The Arc is also contributing to this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Housing and Urban Development Department Economic Development Initiative Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Special Children's Center

Address of Requesting Entity: The Special Children's Center, Lakewood Township Municipal Building, 231 Third Street, Lakewood, NJ 08701.

Description of Request: I have secured \$142,500 in funding for the Special Children's Center. The funding would be used to help defer the costs of constructing a new building for the Special Children's Center. The Township of Lakewood has contributed toward the project and there have been private donations.

MEDICAL DEVICE SAFETY ACT OF 2009

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Medical Device Safety Act of 2009. This legislation was introduced today, and I'm proud to be an original cosponsor.

The Medical Device Safety Act of 2009 is needed to ensure that every American patient has the ability to hold manufacturers of defective medical devices accountable for injuries and deaths caused by unsafe products. It would also prevent these manufacturers from receiving total immunity from any claims simply by virtue of receiving a Food and Drug Administration device approval. This bill clarifies the intention of Congress to keep American patients safe by maintaining complementary systems to protect consumers through the FDA and American courts.

The need for this legislation was made evident in the Supreme Court's flawed decision in *Riegel v. Medtronic*, which completely ignored Congressional intent regarding the ability of injured patients to hold medical device manufacturers accountable for their injuries. This bill will restore Congress's original intent to allow injured patients to recover from their injuries caused by manufacturers of defective and dangerous medical devices.

It's important for Congress to promptly clarify its intent, because these types of issues continue to come up in courts around the country. Last Congress, I was proud to participate in a hearing in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform which looked deeper into these types of issues. The medical safety experts agree that patient safety is compromised when we allow the FDA to have the final say on device safety. Strong state laws are critical to maintaining accountability for device manufacturers, and allowing the FDA to pre-empt these state laws is a surefire way to place sales over safety and profits over people.

The civil justice system and the federal regulatory system were always meant to complement each other. Both are necessary to adequately protect Americans. The FDA simply cannot do it alone, and we see examples of this all the time, from pacemakers to peanuts. The agency is understaffed and underfunded, and I support additional funding to help this critical agency. However, making the FDA the "court of last resort" on issues of life and death is a violation of the Bill of Rights and ignores over 200 years of Common Law precedents. This is just one more reason why Congress must pass the Medical Device Safety Act of 2009 to restore the balance between the civil justice system and the federal regulatory system that Congress intended when it passed the Medical Device Amendments of 1976.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber during the evening of Monday, February 23, 2009. As a result, I was unable to cast my vote on rollcall No. 73, which occurred on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea," and also ask that the record reflect my strong support for the enactment of H.R. 44 and the fact that I am an original cosponsor of this bill which was reintroduced by our colleague from Guam, Ms. BORDALLO, on January 6, 2009.

HONORING ELIZABETH LITTLEFIELDS' SELFLESS ACT

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to Elizabeth Littlefield, a hairdresser from Marana, Arizona. Ms. Littlefield has set an inspiring example for all Americans with one selfless act—the donation of one of her kidneys. It was not to a loved one or longtime friend that Littlefield made this generous donation, but to a customer whom she had known only a short time.

Ms. Littlefield's donated kidney went to Dale Charnick. Not long after Ms. Charnick became a customer of Ms. Littlefield's salon in 2006, both of her kidneys began shutting down. Upon learning of her customer's plight, Littlefield made the surprise offer that saved Ms. Charnick's life. "I have two good kidneys," Ms. Littlefield said. "You can have one of mine."

Now, as a result of Ms. Littlefield's donation, Ms. Charnick is on the road to a strong recovery. Ms. Littlefield's selfless act reminds us in a dramatic way what it means to help a person in need.

I also want to commend the extraordinary medical skills of the well-trained health care professionals at Tucson's University Medical Center for their role in giving Ms. Charnick's a new lease on life.

My constituents in Southern Arizona are indeed fortunate to have a new team of nationally recognized transplant experts in our community. This team includes: abdominal transplant chief Dr. Rainer Gruessner; nephrology chief Dr. Bruce Kaplan, who is also a deputy editor of the *American Journal of Transplantation*; vice chief of abdominal transplantation Dr. John Renz; Dr. Thomas Boyer, who is director of the Arizona Liver Institute; and Dr. Khalid Khan, director of the UA's Pediatric Liver and Intestinal Transplantation Program.

A TRIBUTE TO CLINTON M.
MILLER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Clinton Miller who is a pastor at Brown Memorial Baptist Church in the historic Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn.

Clinton Miller was born in Brooklyn, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Southern Connecticut State University.

Rev. Miller first felt the divine calling of the gospel ministry at the age of 19 but did not actively pursue the vocation of ministry until he was a seminarian at Yale University. Upon graduation from divinity school in 1994, Rev. Miller continued training for the ministry as an intern minister at Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem under the guidance of Rev. Calvin O. Butts. Rev. Miller also was a teacher in the New York City Public School system for four years before entering full time ministry. Rev. Miller then became the youth minister for Abyssinian Baptist Church. In this capacity Rev. Miller developed several youth programs which have assisted the overall ministry of Abyssinian. His experiences with Dr. Butts have adequately prepared him for the full time pastorate in an urban locale.

In October of 2000, Rev. Miller was called to pastor Brown Memorial Baptist Church. Since assuming the pastorate at Brown, Rev. Miller has applied the functions of traditional ministry to this community of believers. Through preaching, teaching bible study, counseling and visitation, he has set a tone that will allow Brown Memorial's vision to be realized. He is interested in pursuing causes that closely affect the community like the need for more affordable housing, better youth services and a living wage for all working New Yorkers.

Currently Brown Memorial plans on launching new educational programs, a summer day camp and a long awaited banquet facility in the newly built church annex. Rev. Miller has begun a \$7M renovation of Brown Memorial Baptist Church's edifice, a landmarked building. It is Pastor Miller's vision to stabilize the ministry of Brown Memorial by demonstrating consistent Christian service, strong financial administration and sound preaching. Rev. Miller combines community service with personal faith in his ministry to help bring people closer in their relationship with God. The mission of his ministry at Brown Memorial is to introduce the Salvation of Jesus Christ to individuals through dynamic worship, relevant Christian education, responsible stewardship, inclusive fellowship and impacting evangelism.

He was ordained by the American Baptist Churches and the United Missionary Baptist Association of Greater New York. Rev. Miller is awaiting and pursuing the opportunity to achieve a doctorate degree in Ethics. He attempts to build his ministry around Christian concepts of fairness, justice and the development of genuine Christian community.

INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA HATCH ACT REFORM
ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Hatch Act Reform Act of 2009, to eliminate discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia, which alone among U.S. jurisdictions still falls under the federal Hatch Act, as it did before the Congress made the District an independent jurisdiction that today enacts its own local laws. This bill would retain federal Hatch Act authority concerning prohibited partisan and political activity that applies to every state and locality upon receipt of federal funds or functions, and importantly, would require the District to enact its own local version of the Hatch Act barring similar local violations to become effective. Local Hatch Act violations in the District are rare, but the District needs its own Hatch Act to fully account and be responsible for local violations, with which only a local, objective body would be familiar.

This bill will leave in place the federal Hatch Act restrictions that apply to other jurisdictions on the use of official authority, specifically as it relates to elections; the solicitation, acceptance, or receipt of political campaign contributions; the prohibitions on running for public office in partisan elections; and the use of on-duty time and resources to engage in partisan campaign activity when federal funds or responsibilities are involved. My bill would remove only the federal Hatch Act jurisdiction that applies solely to the District of Columbia and would require the District to have its own local Hatch Act, like every other jurisdiction, instead of requiring the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and its Special Counsel to devote staff time and other resources on investigation, fact-finding and judgment of unfamiliar local matters.

Indeed, OPM has asked for the federal guidance my bill offers. In recent cases, OPM cited an ANC (Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner) commissioner for violations of the Hatch Act when he ran for higher office, even though ANC commissioners are "elected officials" under D.C. law. As a result of the failure to clear up the confusion between local and federal jurisdictions, the application of the Hatch Act to ANC commissioners has been selectively enforced by OPM. For example, OPM recently filed cases charging Hatch Act violations against an ANC commissioner running for the D.C. Council but did not file when several members of the current D.C. City Council ran for the D.C. Council on positions as ANC commissioners. The present law results in possible violations of the federal Hatch Act while leaving OPM with local responsibility that does not implicate its federal jurisdiction.

The House recognized that the present federal Hatch Act jurisdiction over the District was inappropriate and obsolete and removed this federal responsibility several years ago, but the Senate failed to act. The District should bear this local responsibility. My bill will eliminate the double indignity of placing a local burden on the federal government and depriving the District of a responsibility, which only local jurisdictions familiar with local laws can be expected to handle responsibly.

The Hatch Act Reform is the fourth in the "Free and Equal D.C." series of bills that I have introduced to eliminate anti-Home Rule or redundant bills that deprive the city of equal treatment and recognition as an independent self-governing jurisdiction. This uncomplicated and straightforward bill is not controversial, has been enacted before by the House and should be passed forthwith.

**HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR
HOMES ACT OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106 to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

I want to commend Chairman CONYERS, Chairman FRANK and Speaker PELOSI for their dedication and work in bringing this bill to the floor.

Of course, I would have preferred to vote on the prior, more robust version of this bill, but nevertheless this is an important step forward that will help keep families in their homes.

As we all know the roots of the current economic crisis are grounded in the housing market and the greedy lending practices of the banks.

Many of us warned about this impending housing crisis years ago. As a member of the Financial Services committee for eight years, I remember expressing my concern about the housing bubble and the subprime loans that were fueling it and the consequences to our economy if the bubble popped.

But our warnings fell on deaf ears.

When we tried to encourage the banks to participate in voluntary foreclosure prevention programs to help families in distress, they balked and made every excuse to avoid participating.

Then the economy tanked and they begged us for a bail out.

Now millions more families are threatened with bankruptcy and foreclosure. That's why we are taking this step today, to restore some equity to our bankruptcy laws to allow judicial modifications of mortgages on primary residences and to help keep families in their homes.

I applaud the improvements to the Hope for Homeowners program that are also included in this legislation. We had to address the low rate of participation in this voluntary program and I know that the improvements included here will provide many more homeowners with a way to work out new, affordable mortgages and to continue making their mortgage payments.

Passing this bill will be an important step in stabilizing the housing markets because not only will we help families protect their homes and their assets during this economic crisis, we will strengthen our entire banking system by making permanent the increase in the FDIC insurance limits to \$250,000. This will